



# Department of Homeland Security Information Analysis and Infrastructure Protection Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 29 October 2003

Current Nationwide  
Threat Level is



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[www.whitehouse.gov/homeland](http://www.whitehouse.gov/homeland)

## Daily Overview

- The Denver Post reports a state banking official says that dozens of money–transmission operations — such as those used to finance the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks — are believed to be operating in Colorado illegally. (See item [7](#))
- Reuters reports the United States has said it has credible information of a threat of attacks on aviation and other Western targets in Saudi Arabia, urging Americans to defer non–essential travel to the Gulf Arab state. (See item [11](#))
- The Department of Homeland Security has unveiled the US–VISIT program that it will have in place at airports and seaports on December 31, 2003, to process visitors holding visas as they enter the United States. (See item [21](#))
- The Federal Emergency Management Agency has announced that President Bush has declared a major disaster for California, opening the way for the use of federal disaster funds for people besieged by wildfires that have been raging since last week in the southern part of the state. (See item [23](#))
- Internet Security Systems has raised AlertCon to Level 2, noting that vulnerabilities or threats to computer networks require assessment and corrective action. Refer to the Internet Alert Dashboard.

### **DHS/IAIP Update Fast Jump**

**Production Industries:** [Energy](#); [Chemical](#); [Defense Industrial Base](#)

**Service Industries:** [Banking and Finance](#); [Transportation](#); [Postal and Shipping](#)

**Sustenance and Health:** [Agriculture](#); [Food](#); [Water](#); [Public Health](#)

**Federal and State:** [Government](#); [Emergency Services](#)

**IT and Cyber:** [Information and Telecommunications](#); [Internet Alert Dashboard](#)

**Other:** [General](#); [DHS/IAIP Web Information](#)

## **Energy Sector**

**Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: Physical: ELEVATED, Cyber: ELEVATED**

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://esisac.com>]

1. *October 28, Associated Press* — **Evidence of pipe cracks found at nuclear plant. Workers at Entergy Corp.'s Waterford 3 nuclear power plant, located near Taft, LA, have found evidence of cracks in piping that circulates radioactive water through the reactor,** Entergy has told the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. The cracks were found at Waterford after the plant was shut down Sunday, October 19 for a regularly scheduled maintenance outage, which occurs every 18 months. **The leaks are located at two spots where pipes connect to the reactor's pressurizer and its coolant pump. The cracks are in a nickel–chromium alloy known as Alloy 600, a material that is common in pressurized water reactors. The industry has been aware of problems with Alloy 600 for more than a decade,** but the trouble did not become a major concern in the United States until last year after cracks were found in pipes at the Oconee plant in South Carolina and a hole was found in the reactor lid at the Davis–Besse plant in Ohio. The NRC this year ordered the operators of the nation's 68 pressurized water reactor power stations to conduct special inspections of Alloy 600 material in their reactors.  
Source: <http://www.miami.com/mld/miamiherald/business/7123164.htm>
2. *October 28, Dow Jones Business News* — **Tens of thousands still lack power as California fires rage on.** Over 70,000 customers still lack power and a large generation unit remains off line in Ventura County, CA, but no major transmission lines are threatened by the wildfires in Southern California on Tuesday, October 28. **The 500–kilovolt Southwest Power Link between Arizona and San Diego, which tripped off line Monday, October 27, returned to service that evening, said Gregg Fishman, spokesperson for the state's power grid operator. The line can carry up to 900 megawatts, he said. However, a 750–megawatt unit at Ormond Beach power plant in Ventura County remains off line,** while another 475 MW unit returned to service Monday, according to data on the Independent System Operator's (ISO) Website. Both units tripped off line Sunday, October 26. About 40,000 Southern California Edison customers and about 32,000 San Diego Gas & Electric customers are without power, spokespersons for those utilities said. The ISO, which is charged with balancing supply and demand on the state's power grid, doesn't foresee problems meeting demand Tuesday, Fishman said.  
Source: [http://biz.yahoo.com/djus/031028/1317001463\\_1.html](http://biz.yahoo.com/djus/031028/1317001463_1.html)
3. *October 27, Electric Light & Power* — **\$22 million transmission upgrade approved. The California Independent System Operator has approved a \$22 million project to upgrade the transmission grid in the San Diego, CA, area. The project, approved October 23, will allow additional power supplies to reach San Diego from new generating facilities in Arizona and Mexico.** In various projects over the last year, power project developers in surrounding areas have added nearly 2,000 MW to their capacity. The approved project includes relocation of a large electric transformer, and an upgrade of overhead transmission lines by the end of 2004 for a jump in capacity of 2,240 MW. The project is part of the Southwest Transmission Expansion Plan, a program designed to improve the power grid in the Southwest with a number of improvements through 2010.

Source: [http://uaelp.pennnet.com/articles/article\\_display.cfm?Section=ONART&Category=PRODJ&PUBLICATION\\_ID=22&ARTICLE\\_ID=190908](http://uaelp.pennnet.com/articles/article_display.cfm?Section=ONART&Category=PRODJ&PUBLICATION_ID=22&ARTICLE_ID=190908)

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## **Chemical Sector**

Nothing to report.

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## **Defense Industrial Base Sector**

4. *October 28, Reuters* — **U.S. agency wants two commercial imagery providers. The head of the Pentagon agency that handles mapping and imagery intelligence on Tuesday, October 28, said it would be prudent to have at least two U.S. commercial suppliers providing spy-quality pictures from space.** "This is sort of an insurance policy, a back-up to support or buttress our work," said retired Air Force General James Clapper, director of the National Imagery and Mapping Agency. Clapper told reporters that commercial imagery had played an important role in fighting the war in Iraq, and the administration was eager to assure access to the next generation of commercial satellite imagery.

Source: [http://biz.yahoo.com/rc/031028/arms\\_satellites\\_1.html](http://biz.yahoo.com/rc/031028/arms_satellites_1.html)

5. *October 27, Federal Computer Week* — **Air Force awards JAGUAR contracts. The Air Force Research laboratory information directorate late last week awarded five contracts in support of the Defense Advance Research Projects Agency's (DARPA) Joint Air/Ground Operations: Unified, Adaptive Replanning (JAGUAR) program. JAGUAR is designed to develop technologies that enhance air operations centers.** Officials also hope to automate more air tasking functions and reduce manpower requirements. "JAGUAR will address future concerns by uniting technologies for plan generation, plan assessment and model adaptation in a consistent, model-based framework that can respond to the forthcoming transformations in air operations," said Carl Defranco Jr., program manager in the Air Force Research Lab's information systems division. DARPA hopes to have a working JAGUAR prototype by early 2008.

Source: <http://www.fcw.com/fcw/articles/2003/1027/web-darpa-10-27-03.asp>

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## **Banking and Finance Sector**

6. *October 28, Associated Press* — **Identity theft alert system created. The Financial Services Roundtable, which represents 100 institutions handling about 70 percent of the economy's financial transactions, announced Tuesday, October 28, that it is creating an Identity Theft Assistance Center to help fight the rising incidence of the crime. Under the program, people who believe they are victims of identity theft would make one phone call to their local bank, which in turn would contact the assistance center. The center would then call the victim and obtain an affidavit to be sent to law enforcement officials, credit card companies,**

financial institutions and the credit bureaus. Additionally, financial institutions that receive applications for credit or loans could run the requesting person's name through the center's database to make sure that the name of the person asking for the money is not the same as someone who has reported that he or she is a victim of identity theft.

Source: <http://www.miami.com/mld/miamiherald/business/7123598.htm>

7. *October 28, Denver Post* — **Audit finds illicit outfits conveying cash. Dozens of money–transmission operations such as those used to finance the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks are believed to be operating in Colorado illegally,** a state banking official said Monday, October 27. Colorado Banking Commissioner Richard Fulkerson said that such operations are often hidden away in mom–and–pop shops in ethnic neighborhoods and are difficult to identify. Moreover, state banking officials lack the resources to launch a full–scale search for such operations, he said. **A state audit disclosed that 11 companies were found to be issuing money orders, wire–transferring money illegally between 2000 and 2003, or both, and another 13 were operating without a license.** Money order and transmission services are commonly used by individuals who do not maintain accounts with traditional banks and are widely used to transfer funds to other countries, the audit said. Auditors recommended that state banking officials develop procedures for investigating suspected unlicensed companies, seek investigative assistance from the attorney general's office and state prosecutors, and refer cases to the federal government for prosecution.

Source: <http://www.denverpost.com/Stories/0,1413,36~53~1727434,00.htm>

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## **Transportation Sector**

8. *October 28, Alameda Times–Star (CA)* — **Unions say truck chassis are unsafe.** A growing battle over the safety of truck chassis and who should be responsible for their maintenance came to the Port of Oakland on Thursday, October 23, as two powerful unions blamed steamship owners and marine terminal operators for making the nation's freeways dangerous. **At issue is the maintenance and liability associated with trailers used to carry the thousands of 40–foot containers that leave the nation's ports each day. The unions, the International Brotherhood of Teamsters and the International Longshore and Warehouse Union, say those chassis are unsafe and are calling for support of a proposed federal law that would place new regulations on the trailers.** Meanwhile, steamship companies and marine terminal operators say such a law would place undue financial burden on an aspect of their operations that has not been found to be unusually impaired.

Source: <http://www.timesstar.com/Stories/0,1413,125~1486~1720635,00.html>

9. *October 28, Contra Costa Times (CA)* — **Ports have no money, but a wealth of new security rules.** Given current funding levels, it will take U.S. ports 20 years to implement the security measures required by the Department of Homeland Security, according to a survey released Monday. The study of the security needs at America's major ports, including the Port of Oakland, shows the administration has provided more rhetoric than resources to protect the nation's ports, said Rep. George Miller, D–Martinez. The rules require port facilities to conduct vulnerability assessments, develop security plans and beef up defensive measures. **According to the U.S. Coast Guard, it will cost \$1.13 billion the first year and \$5.45 billion over the**

next 10 years. Congress has authorized \$588 million since 2001 for upgrades while the administration has included no funding specifically for port security in either its 2003 or 2004 budgets. "Ports are still vulnerable to major attack and local officials do not have adequate federal support to manage the new responsibility," said Miller.

Source: <http://www.bayarea.com/mld/cctimes/7121257.htm>

10. *October 28, The Jeffersonian (Baltimore)* — **Maritime companies hit with new security regs. Baltimore County companies that do business at the Port of Baltimore could be required to file security plans with the U.S. Coast Guard by the end of the year**, according to federal regulations published last week. Affected facilities, including oil and gas companies, must submit a security plan to the Coast Guard by December 29, and implement the plan by July 1, 2004. Also affected would be ships carrying more than 150 passengers and facilities receiving foreign vessels. Facilities must review potential vulnerabilities and report what can be done to make them less susceptible to terrorist attack. **Strategies could include added security patrols, restricted areas, personnel identification procedures, access control measures and surveillance equipment. The Coast Guard is also forming an Area Maritime Security Committee with public and private representatives to write a plan for the Baltimore area stretching from Virginia to Delaware.** Nearly 70 companies import or export through Baltimore. The new security regulations are designed to improve protection of the country's ports and ships from attack following passage of the Maritime Transportation Security Act by Congress almost a year ago.

Source: [http://news.mywebpal.com/news\\_tool\\_v2.cfm?pnplID=811&NewsID=501170&CategoryID=9045&show=localnews&om=1](http://news.mywebpal.com/news_tool_v2.cfm?pnplID=811&NewsID=501170&CategoryID=9045&show=localnews&om=1)

11. *October 28, Reuters* — **Credible aviation terror threat in Saudi Arabia. The United States said on Tuesday it had credible information of a threat of attacks on aviation and other Western targets in Saudi Arabia, urging Americans to defer non-essential travel to the Gulf Arab state.** A Saudi official downplayed the warning as an "exaggerated precaution" and said authorities would continue to thwart any terrorist plots in the world's largest oil exporter. The U.S. embassy in the capital Riyadh had earlier warned Americans of possible attacks during the holy Muslim month of Ramadan in the kingdom, birthplace of al Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden, but the new advisory was the first to discourage travel.

Source: [http://wireservice.wired.com/wired/story.asp?section=Breaking&storyId=794401&tw=wn\\_wire\\_story](http://wireservice.wired.com/wired/story.asp?section=Breaking&storyId=794401&tw=wn_wire_story)

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## **Postal and Shipping Sector**

12. *October 27, KFMB TV* — **Mail delivery limited by California wildfires. About 30 percent of San Diego County's letter carriers were unable to deliver mail along their routes due to the wildland fires, the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) reported Monday. Of the 2,206 carrier routes in the county, 667 were skipped.** There was limited or no mail delivery in Ramona, Scripps Ranch, Valley Center, Crest, Santee, Alpine, Eastlake, Julian, Spring Valley, Fallbrook, and parts of El Cajon and Escondido. **Employee attendance has ranged from 50 to 95 percent, according to the USPS, depending on local conditions.** Contingency plans are being made to accommodate customers whose homes were destroyed by fire. More information will

be available as soon as service normalizes, said Mike Cannone of the USPS. Communities not directly affected by the fires will receive mail based on employee safety, air quality, and access issues, according to the USPS.

Source: <http://www.kfmb.com/topstory19364.html>

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## **Agriculture Sector**

13. *October 28, USAGNet* — **FDA to release report on cow cloning.** The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) was to release a report last week expected to pave the way for the marketing of cloned animals and animal products. **The FDA has been reviewing research data looking at the safety of milk and meat from cloned animals.** The report, which is expected to be released this week, is expected to highlight the fact that **research to date has not raised significant safety issues concerning the milk from cloned dairy cattle. Hundreds of dairy cattle have successfully been cloned, and many have gone on to have normal offspring.** The milk from those animals has not yet been marketed because the FDA has asked the technology providers to withhold cloned animal products from the market, pending further government review. **One of the key challenges the FDA will have to address is whether milk from cloned cows will need to be labeled.**

Source: <http://www.usagnet.com/story-national.cfm?Id=1160&yr=2003>

14. *October 27, U.S. Department of Agriculture* — **USDA issues proposed rule for COOL.** The U.S. Department of Agriculture Monday issued the proposed rule for the mandatory country of origin labeling (COOL) program as required by the 2002 Farm Bill. **Under the proposed rule, muscle cuts of beef, lamb and pork; ground beef, ground lamb and ground pork; farm-raised fish and shellfish; wild fish and shellfish; perishable agricultural commodities; and peanuts must be labeled at retail to indicate their country of origin.** Covered commodities are excluded from mandatory country of origin labeling if they are an ingredient in a processed food item. Examples of covered commodities excluded under this provision of the proposed rule would be bacon, orange juice, mixed nuts, and vegetable party trays. **Food service establishments, such as restaurants, are exempt from the mandatory COOL requirements.** The proposed rule also outlines the requirements for labeling products of mixed origin including products produced both in foreign markets and in the United States as well as labeling requirements for blended products. Additionally, recordkeeping requirements for retailers and their suppliers are outlined.

Source: <http://www.ams.usda.gov/news/226-03.htm>

15. *October 27, Purdue University* — **Newly identified gene may halt moldy fruit. A gray mold that often coats plants during growing and storage may be prevented by a gene identified by a Purdue University researcher.** The mold is caused by a fungus, *Botrytis cinerea*, that often enters plant tissue through wounded or dead areas such as wilted petals, bruised fruit, or at the site of pruning. **Purdue plant molecular biologist Tesfaye Mengiste and his colleagues report that the gene, called BOS1, is the first protein identified that regulates plant response to both biological and non-biological stresses.** "Botrytis affects many important crops in the field, in the greenhouse and in post-harvest situations," said Mengiste. It has a tremendous capacity to inflict disease and eventually cause loss of quality and yield." Once the

gene was found, they were able to show that it does more than restrict the growth of the pathogen. BOS1 also protects the plant from stresses, such as drought and soil salinity. In other words, it controls a number of different genes or proteins in a molecular pathway that determines whether a plant overcomes adversity. **Gray mold disease destroys about ten percent of the grape crop annually and about 25 percent to 30 percent of tomato and strawberry crops in some seasons, experts report.**

Source: <http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2003/10/031027061607.htm>

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## **Food Sector**

16. *October 27, Associated Press* — **U.S. doubles food labels cost estimate.** People probably will have to pay more for their food to cover the cost of new labels Congress ordered to tell where their meat, fish, vegetables, fruit, and peanuts come from, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) said Monday. **The USDA released figures doubling from \$2 billion to \$4 billion its estimate of what the labels will cost in their first year, largely from procedures required for labeling livestock origins.** In the 2002 farm bill, Congress required that the labels start appearing on products by next September. Kenneth Clayton, associate administrator for the USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service, said **the costs are likely to be passed on to consumers as higher shelf prices at grocery stores.** The new estimate predicts that farmers and packinghouses probably will spend \$3.3 billion just on separating pigs, cattle, and sheep before they're slaughtered. Record-keeping will cost another \$500 million or more, Clayton said. While consumer advocates and some farmers have argued the labels will let Americans know more about the products they are buying, Clayton said the department was "hard-pressed to come up with any quantification of benefits."

Source: [http://story.news.yahoo.com/news?tmpl=story&u=/ap/20031028/ap\\_on\\_go\\_ca\\_st\\_pe/food\\_labels\\_3](http://story.news.yahoo.com/news?tmpl=story&u=/ap/20031028/ap_on_go_ca_st_pe/food_labels_3)

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## **Water Sector**

17. *October 28, Water Tech Online* — **High tech water grant. Researchers are working to design a computer chip that would detect whether E. coli bacteria has entered astronauts' drinking water during the recycling process in space.** Engineers at the University of Idaho's Center for Advanced Microelectronics and Biomolecular Research have been working on the chip. Rather than carrying large supplies of fresh drinking water on long space missions, excreted water is treated and turned into drinking water on the shuttle. **Current tests take about 24 hours to detect the bacteria in the water. Idaho researchers want to develop a chip that could give test results instantly.** A \$30,000 grant from NASA has been approved and will cover the first stage of research.

Source: [http://www.watertechonline.com/news.asp?mode=4&N\\_ID=43893](http://www.watertechonline.com/news.asp?mode=4&N_ID=43893)

18. *October 27, United Press International* — **Wind power to clean munitions site water.** A University of Missouri-Rolla geological engineering group will use wind power to clean

**up groundwater at a former munitions production site in Nebraska.** The 17,000 acre site of the project is the former Nebraska Ordnance Plant south of Mead, NE. It was used for munitions during World War II and the Korean conflict. Declared a Superfund site in 1990, the soil is contaminated with wastes such as TNT. **More than 400 people use wells within three miles of the site not only for drinking but for livestock and irrigation.** The research group will use a wind turbine to power a groundwater circulation well that removes contaminants from the water. **Professor Curt Elmore, head of the group, hopes the program proves feasible to even average homeowners who might have contaminated wells on their property.**

Source: <http://washingtontimes.com/upi-breaking/20031027-052019-5504 r.htm>

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## **Public Health Sector**

19. *October 28, Associated Press* — **CDC focuses on public health threats.** With public health threats seeming to occur more often, responding will require faster detection, faster science, and faster communications, the director of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) said Tuesday at the annual meeting of the Institute of Medicine. **Citing the anthrax attacks, West Nile virus, Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS), monkeypox, and the smallpox vaccination program, Dr. Julie L. Gerberding said a main lesson that stands out is the need for consistent, fast, and credible communication.** She said the CDC is working on faster ways to detect rapidly moving threats like the SARS virus that began in China and spread worldwide early last year. **Besides faster detection, she said a focus is on faster science to deal with emerging threats.** As an example, she cited development of a blood test for the West Nile virus to prevent it from being spread in transfusions. Using the newly developed test, she said, 4.2 million units of blood have been screened and 900 carriers of the virus identified, preventing the disease being spread.

Source: [http://abcnews.go.com/wire/Living/ap20031028\\_1094.html](http://abcnews.go.com/wire/Living/ap20031028_1094.html)

20. *October 28, Florida Today* — **Florida to investigate fisherman infection. Health officials have launched an investigation to unravel the source of a bacterial infection that has afflicted commercial fishermen and swimmers in recent months.** Florida's and Volusia County's health departments say **the fishermen are most likely catching the infection through person-to-person contact, and are downplaying any role the ocean might play in the spread of the disease.** The infection is known as methicillin resistant staphylococcus aureus (MRSA), and causes painful and contagious crater-like lesions that start as small blisters and can expand to the size of silver dollars within days. About 16 people, mostly Port Orange commercial fishermen, have been hospitalized with the infection in Volusia County, according to doctors. **The bacterial infection also appears to have infected commercial fishermen on the Gulf Coast, and in the Bahamas and Key West,** said Bob Jones, executive director of Southeast Fisheries Association. Bacterial infections are common among commercial fishermen and others who handle fish.

Source: <http://www.floridatoday.com/topstories/102803infection.htm>

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## Government Sector

21. *October 28, Department of Homeland Security* — **Department of Homeland Security unveils US-VISIT program.** The U.S. Department of Homeland Security Tuesday unveiled the capability it will have in place at airports and seaports on December 31, 2003, to process visitors holding visas as they enter the United States. The US-VISIT program — United States Visitor and Immigrant Status Indicator Technology — is a cornerstone of the Department's goals to improve border management at U.S. ports of entry. By capturing more complete arrival and departure data for those who require a visa to enter the United States, the US-VISIT program will enhance the security of our citizens and visitors while expediting legitimate travel and trade. **US-VISIT uses scanning equipment to collect "biometric identifiers," such as fingerprints, in an inkless process, along with a digital photograph of the visitor. Together with the standard information gathered from a visitor about their identity and travel, the new program will verify the visitor's identity and compliance with visa and immigration policies.** The law requires that an automated entry/exit system be implemented at air and seaports by December 31, 2003; the 50 most highly trafficked land ports of entry by December 31, 2004; and all ports of entry by December 31, 2005.

Source: <http://www.dhs.gov/dhspublic/display?content=2079>

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## Emergency Services Sector

22. *October 28, Federal Computer Week* — **DHS buys radios for search and rescue.** The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) will buy \$1.2 million worth of software-programmable, digital portable radios for the nation's urban search and rescue teams. About 400 land mobile radios with accessories to the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) 28 urban search and rescue teams, which are comprised of specially trained firefighters, emergency managers, engineers, medical professionals and canine handler teams from around the country. **To promote interoperability, FEMA will be using radios that adhere to Project 25 standards for communicating over a wireless network.**

Interoperability has become a major issue nationally, and Ridgell said he sees this contract as a step in that direction. "This is kind of an indication — to me anyway — that money is starting to flow from the federal government to the various state and local organizations," he said.

Source: <http://www.fcw.com/geb/articles/2003/1027/web-radio-10-28-03.asp>

23. *October 28, Federal Emergency Management Agency* — **FEMA: President orders disaster aid for California fires.** The head of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) announced today that President Bush has declared a major disaster for California, opening the way for the use of federal disaster funds for people besieged by wildfires that have been raging since last week in the southern part of the state. **Michael D. Brown, FEMA Director and Under Secretary for Emergency Preparedness and Response at Homeland Security, said the President authorized the aid immediately after receiving FEMA's analysis of the state's request for federal relief.** The declaration covers damage to private property from the fires that erupted on October 21.

Source: <http://www.fema.gov/news/newsrelease.fema?id=7020>

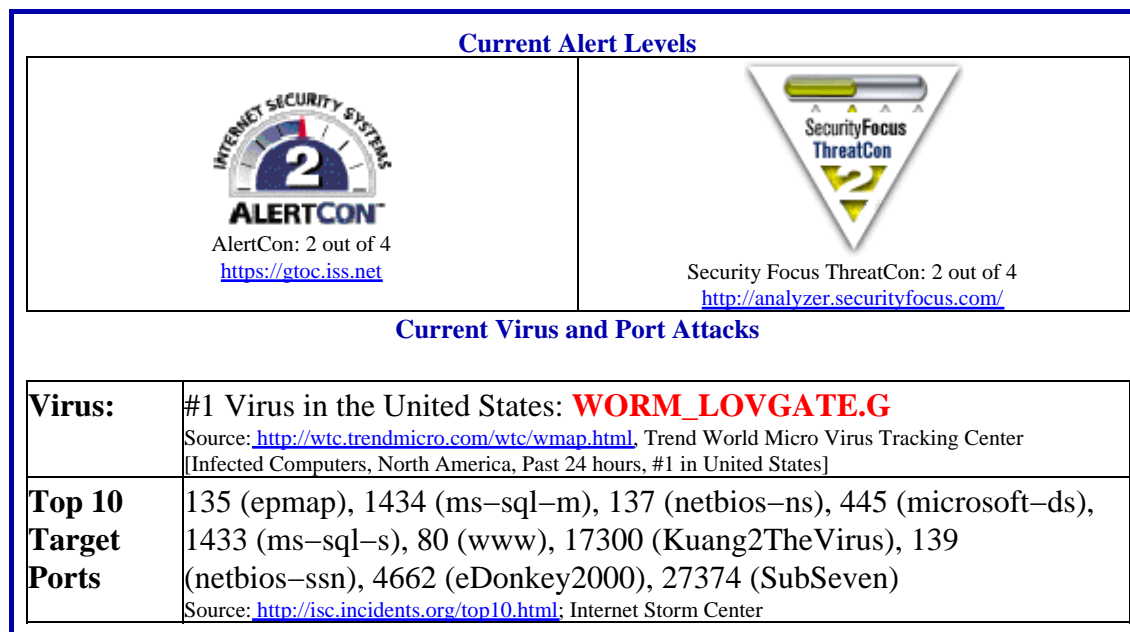
24. *October 28, Richmond Register (KY)* — **County agencies participate in exercise.** The Blue Grass Army Depot, Madison County Emergency Management Agency and others will participate in an exercise Wednesday to test the Kentucky county's preparedness for a possible chemical accident at the depot. **The fictitious scenario will involve the release of chemical warfare agents at the depot. Players on and off the depot grounds will act as though the incident is real, going through their real-time roles in such a circumstance. Steve Popyach, executive director of Madison County CSEPP, said a key to success in such an exercise — and a real emergency situation — is the cooperative effort it involves.** Early Wednesday morning, the fictitious scenario will begin. As part of the exercise, emergency operation centers on Keeneland Drive and on the depot grounds will work together to determine a plan of action, and will communicate that plan to the appropriate people. **At the same time, a local school will practice its evacuation plan with students. Berea Hospital will participate by simulating the decontamination of patients and triage.** An information center will also be utilized to disseminate information to the media and the community.  
Source: <http://www.richmondregister.com/reader.cfm?si=1&sd=7669>
25. *October 28, Nashua Telegraph (NH)* — **Mysterious package explodes outside of CVS. Police are investigating the contents and source of a device that exploded outside a CVS drugstore in Nashua, NH, late Monday night, releasing an acidic substance that hit three men. No one was injured** and police sent the apparently homemade device to the state lab for analysis, police Sgt. Jeffrey Bukunt said. When they reached the store, police and a Nashua Fire Rescue hazardous materials team found a clear plastic two-liter bottle ripped to shreds on the sidewalk. The bottle had been filled with a liquid substance that exploded into the air and landed all around the parking lot and sidewalk, officials said. **Fire crews cordoned off the area where the bottle had exploded and tested the liquid, finding it to be acidic, but none of the chemicals could be identified, Deputy Fire Chief John Allison said.** It also appeared that someone had placed steel wool inside the bottle, which may have caused a chemical reaction that built up pressure in the bottle, causing it to rupture, Bukunt said.  
Source: <http://nashuatelegraph.com/Main.asp?SectionID=25&SubSectionID=354&ArticleID=92270>
26. *October 28, Omaha World-Herald* — **NU finalist for bioterror research.** The University of Nebraska (NU) has been named one of four national finalists for a prestigious new homeland security research center, NU officials said. **The U.S. Department of Homeland Security notified NU on Monday that it was among the finalists for a research center to study the economic consequences of terrorism. It would include a grant of \$12 million for research over three years.** "We're very excited to participate in the final four," said Harold Maurer, chancellor of the NU Medical Center. "We're grateful to be recognized among the best-prepared to serve the nation." Mel Bernstein, director of university programs and fellowships for Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge, will be closely involved in the selection process, a department spokeswoman said last week. **The research center would develop ways to minimize the impact of terrorist attacks on transportation, finance, energy and the supply distribution system in the United States, the university said.**  
Source: [http://www.omaha.com/index.php?u\\_np=0&u\\_pg=1640&u\\_sid=900301&PHPSESSID=c33691023062943216d1a0caf091195d](http://www.omaha.com/index.php?u_np=0&u_pg=1640&u_sid=900301&PHPSESSID=c33691023062943216d1a0caf091195d)

## **Information and Telecommunications Sector**

**27. *October 28, Associated Press* — NYC moves to identify, stamp out cell phone dead spots.**

New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg said the city is asking people to call the city's 311 help line to report 'dead spots,' or places where they can't get service. He said [dead spots] were dangerous because people might be unable to place 911 calls in certain areas. **The information—including the cell phone carrier and whether the call was attempted indoors or outside—will be collected and disseminated to the public beginning November 24.** That date coincides with the effective day of a federal law that will allow mobile phone customers to switch carriers while maintaining their phone number. The city said it also will begin to monitor wireless carriers to ensure that the companies are following industry guidelines for consumer services, including disclosing rates and terms of service and allowing for trial periods on new purchases. **During the 2001 World Trade Center attack and this summer's blackout, many cell phone calls, including those made to 911, failed to connect.** Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2003/TECH/ptech/10/28/sprj.ws.dead.spot.cell.ap/index.html>

### **Internet Alert Dashboard**



## **General Sector**

**28. *October 28, New York Times* — Car bomb near Iraqi police station kills four.** A car bomb exploded Tuesday, October 28, near a school about 200 yards from an Iraqi police station in Iraq, killing four people and injuring five. The attack in Falluja, about 40 miles west of Baghdad, appeared to fit the pattern of the suicide car bombings in the capital on Monday in which attackers detonated vehicles at or near four police stations and at the Red Cross

headquarters. **"Nobody accepts such criminal attacks because the victims are the innocent people," said the head of the Falluja police, Col. Jalal Sabri Khamis.** Falluja has been the scene of repeated attacks on American troops. It is dominated by Sunni Muslims who generally benefited from the rule of Saddam Hussein, also a Sunni Muslim. Many members of Hussein's Baath Party were from the town. **While the attacks on Monday and today were not directed at American targets, they appeared intended to punish Western agencies or those working with the Americans, such as Iraqi police forces.**

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2003/10/28/international/middleeast/2 8CND-IRAQ.html?hp>

29. *October 28, Reuters* — **U.S. judge sentences al Qaeda supporter to prison.** Iyman Faris, an Ohio truck driver who now denies casing the Brooklyn Bridge in New York, NY, to see if it could be destroyed, was sentenced on Tuesday, October 28, to 20 years in prison for providing support to al Qaeda. **Born in Kashmir, Faris entered the United States in 1994 and became a U.S. citizen five years later.** He pleaded guilty on May 1 to one count of providing material support to al Qaeda and another count of conspiracy to provide material support to al Qaeda. U.S. Justice Department officials have said Faris met al Qaeda chief Osama bin Laden at training camp in Afghanistan several years ago. They said **a top al Qaeda official, Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, the accused mastermind of the September 11, 2001, hijacked plane attacks, spoke to Faris in Pakistan last year about destroying the Brooklyn Bridge.**

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/newsArticle.jhtml;jsessionid=FQBMS2NZC2332CRBAEKSFEY?type=domesticNews&storyID=3707711>

30. *October 27, World Tribune* — **North Korea has delivered 400 ballistic missile to Mideast.** North Korea has delivered 400 ballistic missiles to clients in the Middle East and sharply increased sales over the last year. **The South Korean Defense Ministry told parliament in a report that Pyongyang has delivered 400 Scud-class missiles to a range of Middle East countries since 1985.** The report said the missile export constituted the largest source of hard currency for the Stalinist regime. **The report said the best clients of North Korea were Iran, Iraq, Syria, and Yemen.** The report did not say how much Pyongyang earned from the exports. But the Yonhap News Agency said the figure was \$110 million. **In 2002, North Korea sold \$60 million worth of Scud missiles and missile parts to Iraq, Iran, Syria, and Yemen, Middle East Newslane reported.** The report said Pyongyang also sold Pakistan, Syria, and Yemen \$30 million worth of missile technology in 1999. The combined figure for 2001 was \$20 million. "Since the middle of the 1980s, North Korea has exported 400-odd Scud missiles along with missile-related parts to the Middle East region," Defense Ministry spokesman Kim Ki-Beom, quoting the report, said.

Source: [http://www.worldtribune.com/worldtribune/breaking\\_8.html](http://www.worldtribune.com/worldtribune/breaking_8.html)

31. *October 27, U.S. Department of State* — **Travel Warning: Saudi Arabia.** This Travel Warning is being updated to alert Americans to continuing security concerns in Saudi Arabia . This Travel Warning supersedes that of August 13, 2003. **The Department of State warns U.S. citizens to defer non-essential travel to Saudi Arabia. Americans are reminded of the potential for further terrorist actions against U.S. citizens abroad, including in the Persian Gulf region.** The U.S. Government continues to receive indications of terrorist threats aimed at American and Western interests, including the targeting of transportation and civil aviation. There is credible information that terrorists have targeted Western aviation interests in Saudi Arabia . American citizens in Saudi Arabia should remain vigilant, particularly in public places.

Source: [http://travel.state.gov/saudi\\_warning.html](http://travel.state.gov/saudi_warning.html)

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